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TECHNICAL NOTE

HIGHLIGHTS OF FOREST PEST CONDITIONS IN THE MARITIMES AT THE END OF JUNE 1989

In this, the second report of 1989, we briefly discuss forest pest conditions as they appeared in the Maritimes at the end of June 1989.

The lack of major pest problems on a large scale, especially on hardwoods, is one of the most noteworthy items. Although the number of forest pests, both insects and diseases, active this time of the year is considerable, most problems are of a localized nature.

Gypsy moth larvae were found, in considerable numbers in some places, at several locations both in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. The highest numbers observed in New Brunswick were at St. Stephen, where larvae were present in at least four areas of the town. As many as 70 late instar larvae were counted on a single oak tree. In spite of the numbers, no appreciable defoliation occurred before the end of the month. In Nova Scotia, at New Minas, an apple orchard was found infested, larvae were numerous, and the trees were defoliated to various degrees. Control traps are in place in 4 areas in New Brunswick and in 5 areas in Nova Scotia. Monitoring, detection, and delimitation traps will be deployed around the end of July, bringing the number of traps in the Maritimes to well over 8500 as part of the multi-agency gypsy moth program in 1989.

Spruce budworm has largely completed its feeding period for the year and aerial surveys for defoliation are getting under way. It appears that severe and moderate defoliation will be mapped in parts of northern New Brunswick and in patches in eastern and central Prince Edward Island (after a two-year absence). No defoliation is expected to be recorded in Nova Scotia.

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Pear thrips have been added to the ever-growing list of forest pests present in the Maritimes. The insect was identified in samples of sugar maple leaves, from trees showing signs of stress, in widely separated locations in New Brunswick. Samples came from Madawaska, Carleton, York, Albert, and Gloucester counties. However, populations in all cases were low and no foliage damage occurred. Further surveys will be necessary to establish the distribution of this pest in the Region.

Root collar weevil, probably *Hylobius warreni*, found in a jack pine plantation in Albert County, New Brunswick, last year, continues to damage and kill trees in 1989. The problem is more widespread, and more serious, than last year. A number of plantations of various tree sizes are affected and as much as 15% new tree mortality was observed. Surveys to establish the extent of the problem are pending and possibilities for control are under investigation.

Heavy seed crop on some hardwoods, especially red maple and elm, caused trees in many areas to appear brown from a distance due to the delayed development of foliage. Even after the leaves expand they are often much smaller than normal and the trees look "thin". The combination of seed production and the weaker foliage will undoubtedly cause a stress situation. Cedar trees also appear discolored; this is due, in most places, to the abundance of maturing cones that have turned brown.

Other forest pests of note include: **birch casebearer** causing varying levels of foliage discoloration, mostly on white birch, in all three provinces; **birch leafminer** on wire birch in parts of New Brunswick and Nova Scotia; **satin moth** on ornamental silver poplar trees; **uglynest caterpillar** along roadside in all three provinces; **elm leafminer** causing moderate or severe foliage discoloration of exotic elms in the Region; **needle rusts** on pines, spruces, and balsam fir; **cedar borer** in the Saint John area of New Brunswick; **Dutch elm disease**, infecting both residual old trees and younger ones in New Brunswick and Nova Scotia, so far found only within the area of known distribution; **spruce beetle**, **cherry blight** common in all three provinces; **Sirococcus shoot blight** damaging red pine trees in both plantations and natural stands; **balsam twig aphid**; **spruce budmoth**; **spruce bud midge**; **yellow witches' broom** on balsam fir; various **gall midges** and **mites** on hardwood foliage, and many others.

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Forest Insect and Disease Survey

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